

For the Hostess

Chat on Interesting Topics of Many Kinds, by a Recognized Authority

A Tramp Party.

"Now, for a tramp party," exclaimed the clever matron to whom we all looked for novel sensations when it came to entertaining, "and we'll combine it with a penny walk."

So last year just about this time the party was given which I am about to describe. It hardly seems possible that it has been almost a twelve-month since the above remarks were made. It was not practical to use the suggestion for the department then, so I have waited for the glorious September days to return.

The invitations were issued on brown wrapping paper sealed with red wax and the time was "Saturday afternoon at three sharp." The guests were told to wear tramping costumes and each man to bring a bright, new penny. Of course, all this excited curiosity. There were just eight couples and the hostess saw that each couple was congenially mated. It was a lovely suburban place with winding streets, hills and dales; just the place for this party.

The men compared watches and the hostess explained that they were to walk for one hour, all making the start together, but at the very first corner each man was to toss his penny to decide the direction he and his partner were to take. "Heads" meant to go to the right, "tails" to the left. At every corner, the penny was to decide the direction. Instructions were given to write a three-minute description of the walk. The first couple to arrive at the expiration of the hour was to have a reward, and every minute overtime was to be paid for in pennies at the rate of one a minute, the money going to the hostess' pet charity fund.

A half hour late would bar from competition in the prize stories. It was a very jolly, hungry party that arrived and very amusing stories resulted which were read or related by the "tramps" around the table when a most bountiful supper was served.

The hostess used small tables, seating four persons at each, and the day being warm, the repast was served on the porch, which was made a perfect bower of golden rods decked with wild lavender asters that bloom so plentifully now. All you have to do to find this wealth of autumn glory is to go by street car or railroad about a score of miles into the country. After supper a fire was built in the fireplace and candles lit, the men smoked and the girls discussed winter plans. All left at eight o'clock, delighted with the "tramp" party.

Country hostesses in search of a novelty may be sure of a delightful success in giving a party along these lines.

An Introduction Party.

To break the ice at a party where the guests are unknown to each other

try this plan: At a large meeting of a college fraternity, the chairman of the social committee requested each one who was to be presented to send her the name in full. There were nearly 50 people present and there were tally cards tied with the fraternity colors, each having a large number. On the reverse side of the cards given the men were the names of the girls present and the girls' cards had the names of the men. The acting hostess explained that there would be no formal introductions, that when a man or a girl thought he or she had discovered "who was who" the name, or rather the number opposite the name, was to be marked. To the one who made the largest number of "correct" acquaintances a prize was awarded, and there were special prizes for discovering the fads or peculiarities of guests. This is really a most jolly and effective method of placing a large number of strangers at their ease.

Way to Find Partners.

Of course, it was the pretty little wife of a newspaper editor who tried this way of making partners for a large progressive party. She took "ads." from the Sunday paper and pasted them on dainty cards, distributing them so that every "want" would be supplied. For instance: "Wanted—Young girl, not over 16, to learn bookkeeping in the office of a wholesale house" was answered by the guest who held the "ad." saying that a young girl wished to learn bookkeeping.

Choosing these "ads." cleverly results in a very funny time before the real business of the evening begins, or should I say "entertainment?" To tell the truth, I have been to some parties lately that make the word "business" seem more appropriate than anything else, for the way some women play bridge and other games causes me to think that the ultimate end of parties, recreation and pleasure has been forgotten. Nowadays entertaining seems like real work not only for the hostess, but for the guests.

Chinese Dinner Menu.

What the Chinese serve at dinner is a question often asked, so Mme. Merri is delighted to give the menu served by the Chinese government to the American fleet. The menu was printed on a fan and will be preserved as a most interesting souvenir by those who were fortunate enough to be guests at the strange feast at Amoy:

Birds' Nest Soup.
Shark's Fin and Crab Roe.
Rolled Fish.
Fried Oysters.
Mushrooms and Bamboo Shoots.
Shrimp Balls.
Fried Duck's Liver and Giblets.
Boiled Ham and Chicken.
Deviled Crabs on Shell.
Minced Chicken and Cauliflower.
Li Hung Chang Shop Suet.
Tea, Fruit, Cake.

MADAME MERRI.

METHOD OF PICKING APPLES FOR MARKET

When Scarce It Is Very Important to Conserve Fruit for Consumption in the Winter—By Joe A. Burton.

When apples are scarce it is very important to conserve them to best advantage. So very many families are without apples during most of the winter. Often persons remark to me that they had quite a lot of apples at gathering time, but they wouldn't keep. Now why is this? We know it is the business of a sound apple to keep till its cell structure is broken down by over-ripening, unless interfered with by an outside agent. This agent may be a bruise, a rotten apple or too great warmth.

Apples do not rot through pure cussedness. The farmer will drive his jolt wagon into the orchard and then pick and pour into it apples of various varieties and every conceivable grade of rottenness and soundness, writes Joe A. Burton in Farmers' Review. When the box is full, all the pickers sit on the apples while they are driven to the place of deposit. The pickers are on the apples with their feet while they scoop up with both hands half a dozen at a time

If we have a full crop of apples it is still more important that we handle them intelligently. If properly done, they become of commercial importance. Careful grading is a prime essential when apples are plenty.

The buyer has many opportunities and he is sure to discriminate against any careless packing. It is a moral duty of the apple grower to pack his apples honestly, whether of high or low grade. If he does not he is not honest. But the rule will not work both ways. It is not proof that I am honest because my apples are well packed. Packing apples is a business proposition with us. We pack them so for the money there is in it. We cannot afford to sell a barrel of deceptive apples. Of course we sell low-grade apples, but it is understood they are such. I am sure that we feel more anxiety about the condition of our apples than do the parties to whom we sell. How good we would pack our apples from a



Assorting the Apples.

and roughly throw them into the basket. When the basket is full, it is dragged across the apples on its way to the bin. If there were any sound apples they are probably bruised or besmirched with rot and compelled to lie against a rotten neighbor. No wonder "our apples wouldn't keep." If a few did try to keep, the children dug them out first, trying to find a possible one to take to school.

The farmer's apples belong to him and he has just as many, whether they are in one pile or four piles. If he will properly sort them out he will find one pile ought to go to the hogs at once, another is good for present use in the house, another can be used a little later and the sound ones kept for winter. He ought to know that a rotten apple is already past usefulness, a speckled one will soon be rotten, as will also a sound one if associated with a rotten one.

moral consideration we will never know because commercially we cannot take such risks.

Apples should be picked in medium sized baskets and not bruised. This means that they must be placed in the baskets by hand and neither dropped nor tossed. They should be hauled in these same baskets on a spring wagon to the packing stand. Do not pour them in a box there but sort them from the basket. The following is the procedure with us: A basket of apples is placed on the table directly in front of the sorter. Around this is grouped four empty baskets. There are four grades—No. 1, No. 2, culls and castaways, or as we say, mill culls. These grade baskets should always occupy the same relative position so the sorter through habit will place each grade where it belongs.

INCREASE IN STOCK RAISING

Noteworthy Feature in Industry Is Improvement of Breeds in All Kinds of Animals.

In the past several years American cattle breeders have sent some of their finest blood to the Argentine Republic, South America, and that country has been rapidly improving its native breeds with this better blood. The American consul in Buenos Ayres writes that the country is rapidly increasing its cattle and regularly exports beef to English markets. In 1895 there were 21,791,516 head of cattle there and in 1908 there were 29,116,625 head. As compared with other countries Argentina ranks third in the number of cattle. Russia, with 91,000,000 head, stands first, and the United States follows with 69,000,000 head.

A noteworthy feature in the stock-raising industry is the improvement of breeds of all classes of animals. In the last cattle census it was found that 3.4 per cent. of the entire number were thoroughbreds, and 51.7 per cent. were improved crossbreds. It was found that many fields that had heretofore been sown to wheat were now devoted to cattle raising on intensive principles of the industry. The value of the cattle of Argentina is estimated at \$928,635,534. Diseases of cattle and other live stock have been combated so successfully that the diseases are either stamped out or confined to isolated cases and to small territorial areas.

Considerable uneasiness has been occasioned by the strict British in-

spection regulations, according to which Argentine live cattle have not been freely admitted into the United Kingdom. As an effort to this restriction on the live cattle market, a promising trade of cattle on foot has been opened with Spain and Italy.

Specks in Butter.

The white specks in butter are due to poor ripening of the cream, says the Epitomist.

Some of the cream has "wheyed off" and decomposed and the casein has gathered in clots and the whey has separated from the cream. These clots of curd will not churn out. They remain in the butter as clots and always look white. Artificial coloring has no effect upon them, and winter or summer they spoil the looks of the butter. Greater care in ripening the cream is called for, but even in creameries there are times when these colorless clots form and the sure way to do is to strain the cream into the churn. Then the clots do not get into the churn and are not found in the butter.

Moles Not Enemies.

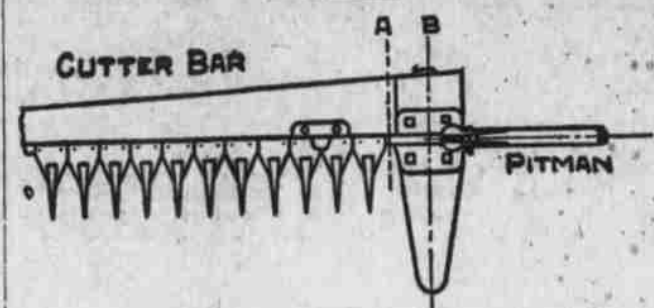
Much complaint is and always has been made of destruction in gardens and fields by moles. This seeming destruction is only apparent, for the mole does more good than it does harm. The most harm that it does is in plowing up the lawn and soil in cultivated places, allowing it to dry out in summer and causing the plants on the ridges to wither and die in dry weather.

Largest Tobacco Farm.

The largest tobacco farm in the world, containing 25,000 acres, is near Amsterdam, Ga. Here is grown about one-third of all the Sumatra tobacco used for cigar wrappers in the United States.

DETAILS AND CARE OF FARM MACHINERY

Mower Is Simple and Easy of Management, Yet Its Care and Adjustment Need Attention—By Prof. Fred R. Crane.



Showing the Cutter-bar in Line with the Pitman.

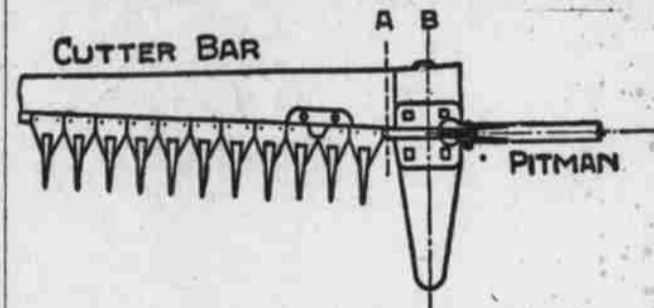
The mower is a simple machine, easy of management, and yet certain details of its care and adjustment must be attended to carefully to secure good and economical work.

The cutter-bar sometimes gets out of line with the pitman, causing the machine to run hard. This may also result in breaking the sickle near the sickle-head at A as shown in the drawing.

By the proper adjustment upon the

to bring the cutter-bar into line with the pitman.

Another trouble is that some of the sickle-guards may become bent up or bent down so that the sickle cannot work smoothly upon the wearing surface of the guards. The remedy is to pound each bent guard into exact line with the other guard so that the sickle-sections lie down upon the ledger-plates. Bent guards cause "ragged" cutting and extra wear upon



Showing Cutter-bar Out of Line.

line B, where the cutter-bar hinges, this bar may be brought into line with the pitman, and it should never be worked when out of true. The proper line-up is shown in the drawing.

B, wristpin joint upon which the cutter-bar works and the line upon which the adjustment must be made

the sickle and require more force to run the machine.

The main-spring of the mower should be adjusted tight enough to assist in raising the cutter bar, but not so tight as to cause the bar to keep flopping up and down when cutting in the field.

BUILD YOUR SILO EARLY

Thrifty Farmer Will Have It Ready to Take Care of Crops Before the Frost Comes.

Silos should be built in time to take care of the crops before frost comes, and the thrifty farmer will build as early as possible.

I built a round silo, 16 feet 4 inches in diameter by 20 feet high, and placed in it about seven acres of drilled corn well eared, and three acres of hill corn from the shock, all cut and blown into the silo, mixed as it went in and wet down well, writes Joseph Newman in Farmers' Review. This made 125 tons of the best winter feed for dairy cows that I ever saw.

We started feeding it to 50 cows and ten head of young stock on December 1, and it was sufficient to last them until March 10.

The corn put in in this way furnished not only the roughage, but concentrates, and all needed to balance the ration was four pounds of gluten meal and four pounds of wheat bran per day for each cow. Following this stock in the barnyard were about 30 hogs, shotes and sows, and with practically no other feed I never saw stock look any better on March 1.

We found the best way to feed was to feed the bran and gluten meal before and during milking time, and the ensilage after milking. The milk was bought by one of the large milk companies which supply Chicago with bottled milk and was pronounced by them a fine article, testing on the average about 3.7 per cent. butter fat by the Babcock test.

For a dairy of 50 cows, two round silos, each 18 feet in diameter by 36 feet high, should furnish enough for the winter's feeding and to carry the stock through the dry time the next fall.

I do not put anything on top of the silage after filling, and did not lose six inches on top, and the pigs took care of that when it was thrown into the barnyard.

How to Build a Stack.

Start the stack as though you were going to put up a large shock, except that the sheaves must be a little more slanting. This will insure a good slope for drainage from the bottom to the top with very little, if any, spoiled grain in the bottom of the stack. Lay the butts of each circle of sheaves a little farther out till the stack is of desired size. Then start another layer, beginning at the outside.

After laying the outside circle start the second, the butts of which should reach just to the band or twine, on the first. Continue this to center of the stack, then back to the outside circle again and proceed as before to center of stack. Follow this plan carefully, remembering to keep the middle full, and your stack will shed water like a shingle roof.

Attention to Poultry.

Poultry should be given as much attention as any branch of the farm's income. It should be studied as carefully as dairying or hog raising and the farmer will find his profits from this source are not inconsiderable.

PLANK FRAME BARN BUILDING

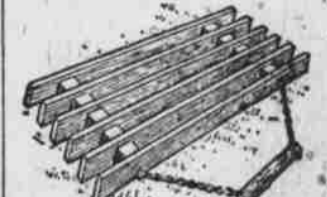
It Is No Longer An Experiment and Has Made Good Wherever Properly Constructed.

In general the foundation and roof are costly parts of a barn. Added storage capacity costs little in height so it is wise to build of good height. The plank frame is no longer an experiment. It has made good where properly constructed. Its advocates claim a saving of material over the old style frame barn, writes E. L. Allen, in Rural New Yorker. But if the building is high (as it should be) it will require longer material for braces. The long timbers are hard to get and are more expensive. Another advantage in the plank frame is that it is much more quickly and easily erected. Quite a large saving may be made here. The roofing question is a complicated one. A good deal might be said for and against almost any kind of roof. But the slate roof is the cheapest and most satisfactory in the end. If the barn is to house stock, let the stable receive your special attention. Study the subject of ventilation, and adopt some system, as King's, that will enable you to have pure fresh air in the stable constantly. It is vital. Plan for all the sunlight practical. Make it sanitary. There is a chance for a lot of head-work here. Money expended to secure best stable conditions will pay you the biggest kind of interest every year you use it.

CLOD CRUSHER AND LEVELER

Illustration and Directions for the Construction of Handy Farm Implement.

The clod crusher and field leveler for plowing ground shown in the accompanying illustration may be made any size desired. Six pieces of two



Plank Clod Crusher.

by six timber may be used, set on edge as indicated, and placed four inches apart. They are held together with blocks having holes in the center, through which are passed half-inch iron rods, 32 inches long.

Ground Dries Quickly.

The time of year has come when the ground dries out very fast after a rain. Give plenty of time after each rain for the soil to dry out before you begin work on it. More injury than good is done by working the ground when it is too wet. Do something else while the soil is drying so as to be ready when it is in a good workable condition.

Pretty Blouses



ALMOST any blouse materials may be made up like these; they are, however, specially suited to tussore or washing silks. The first has bretelles with a wide hem each side, and small tucks in the center, the front and back being plain in center; the high collar is of the material slightly rucked; the Peter Pan collar of embroidered lawn.

The sleeves are somewhat uncommon, tucks being made down outside of arm and the tight-fitting lower part is tucked three times; turn-up cuffs are worn to match collar.

Material required: Three yards 34 inches wide.

The other blouse is trimmed to simulate a side fastening; the scalloped piece edged with lace frilling being fixed on under a tuck; the actual fastening is under the center box-plate that is trimmed with buttons in sets of three; frills of lace finish the neck and sleeves.

Material required: Three yards 34 inches wide, two and three-fourths yards lace, two dozen buttons.